

Pike Central Band entertains at dedication of F.M. Burke Bridge on new US 119



Jobs for people on Johns Creek — that's the reason the Burke family asked that the new US 119 main line northbound bridge be named in memory of F.M. Burke. He was a founder of McCoy-Elkhorn Coal Corporation and Johns Creek Coal, both of which provided good paying jobs for many people in who lived along KY 194 and its feeder roads.

Granddaughter Kathryn Burke, a Pikeville attorney and former Pike Circuit Court Judge/Family Division, talked about the things her grandfather taught her: deep patriotism, that we all have a duty to give back to our communities, and that family matters most.

F.M. Burke was an attorney, a Kentucky Assistant Attorney General, a Kentucky State Senator, and the senior member of the Pike County Democrat Party when he died in 1994 at the age of 95. He is one of the few — perhaps the only — person in Kentucky with the distinction of having graduated from college before he finished high school.

Top photo, Pike Central High School Band, Matt Moon, Director; photo above, Kathryn Burke; photo at right, from left, Stephen Francis Burke, great-grandson; Paul Mueller, grandson; Barbara Mueller, daughter; Terry Mueller, granddaughter-in-law; and Faye Helvey Burke, daughter-in-law.
— Photos by Charity Collins

